

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12646

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IT, FR
SUBJ: MARCHAIS-BELINGUER MEETING POSTPONED

1. ACCORDING TO ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) FOREIGN SECTION CHIEF SERGIO SEGRE, PLANS FOR A MID-SUMMER MEETING BETWEEN PCI SECRETARY GENERAL ENRICO BERLINGUER AND FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCF) CHIEF GEORGE MARCHAIS HAVE BEEN ABANDONED. AS RECENTLY AS LAST MONTH, BERLINGUER PRIVATELY TOLD ITALINA JOURNALISTS THAT HE HOPED TO HAVE A MEETING WITH MARCHAIS BEFORE THE SUMMER VACATION PERIOD.

2. SEGRE STATED THAT THE IMPULSE FOR A POSSIBLE MEETING RESULTED FROM PCF POLITBURO MEMBER KANAP'S APRIL VISIT TO ROME WHICH OCCURRED IN THE WAKE OF THE DEFEAT OF THE LEFT IN THE FRENCH NATIONAL ELECTIONS. DURING THEIR CONVERSATIONS WITH KANAPA, PCI OFFICIALS RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PCF WAS RECONSIDERING ITS POLITICAL LINE.THEY THEREFORE SAW A MARCHAIS-BERLINGUER MEETING AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE A STIMULUS TO A POSSIBLE PROCESS OF CHANGE WITHIN THE PCF AS WELL AS A CHANCE TO BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO THE SO-CALLED EUROCOMMUNIST MOVEMENT.

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3. SUBSEQUENT TO THE KANAPA MEETING, THE PIC, ACCORDING TO SEGRE, WATCHED PCF DEVELOPEMENTS CLOSELY TO SEE WHETHER CHANGES WERE IN FACT OCCURRING. THE PCF'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING, ITS CONTINUING POLEMICS WITH THE FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY, AND THE PARTY'S TREATMENT OF THE DISSIDENTS WITHIN ITS RANKS HAVE LED

THE PCI TO CONCLUDE THAT ITS HOPE FOR CHANGES ARE NOT MATERIALIZING, ACCORDINGLY, SEGRE REPORTED THAT THE PCI DOES NOT SEEN ANY UTILITY IN A MARCHAIS-BERLINGUER MEETING AT THIS TIME, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A MEETING LATER THIS YEAR.

4. IN AN ASIDE, SEGRE NOTED THAT KANAPA WAS OPERATED ON FOR LUNG CANCER APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH AGO. ACCORDING TO SEGRE, THE CANCER HAS SPREAD, AND KANAPA'S CONDITION IS TERMINAL. GARDNER

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